



State of Missouri
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRANSITION
TEAM**

P.O. Box 1928 ♦ Jefferson City, MO 65102-1928

Mel Carnahan
Governor

Phone: (573) 751-7039
FAX: (573) 751-0147

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The Honorable Mel Carnahan
Governor of Missouri
State Capitol, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Carnahan:

Your letter of March 31, 1998, called for the integration of Missouri's employment and training programs into a comprehensive workforce development system. This initiative was reinforced by the recently passed Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which places a strong emphasis on integrating employment and training services at One-Stop Career Centers. The integration of these programs will be best achieved through the creation of a new Division of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development.

We respectfully submit *New Directions in Workforce Development* for your review. This document presents the rationale for consolidating employment and training programs and the benefits of the new Division of Workforce Development administering the Workforce Development System. Our design effort focused on eliminating duplication, providing greater customer choice, promoting local customer service decision-making, and improving results for Missouri taxpayers.

New Directions in Workforce Development was drafted with the assistance of nine taskforces and the Departments of Labor and Industrial Relations, Economic Development, Social Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education. In addition, suggestions were received from many employment and training practitioners through the Workforce Development Internet Site.

The recommendations presented should prove helpful in the implementation of the new Division of Workforce Development. However, additional work must be done to ensure a smooth transition, including working closely with the Missouri General Assembly, establishing contractual agreements between departments, and negotiating new cost allocation agreements with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Respectfully,

David D. Mitchem
Transition Team Leader

Enclosure